CHRISTIAN UNITY Newsletter

VOL. IV SEPTEMBER, 1958 No. 2

YEAR OF EMPHASIS NOTES

UNITY EVENTS

Sept. 21—Launching Day Program
Oct. 5—World Communion Sunday
Oct. 19—World Order Sunday
Oct. 26—Reformation Sunday
Nov. 7—World Community Day
Nov.-Jan.—Regional Consultations on Christian Unity
Jan. 4-10—Universal Week of Prayer
Jan. 18-25—Week of Pray for Christian Unity
Jan. 25-Feb. 1—Ecumenical Youth Week
Feb. 8—Race Relations Sunday
Feb. 15-22—Brotherhood Week
Feb. 15-22—Week of Compassion
Feb. 16—Universal Day of Prayer for Students
May 17—Pentecost (Christian Unity Sunday)

ESSAY CONTEST

An outstanding feature of the 1958-59 Year of Emphasis is an essay contest. There are three divisions of the contest, each with its own theme. High school students are to write on "Christian Literature"; college students are to write on "Disciples Heritage"; and seminary students are to write on "Christian Unity." The seminary division is sponsored by the Council on Christian Unity.

The purpose of this division of the contest is to encourage seminary students to engage in the study of some of the current issues and problems under ecumenical discussion. It is felt that students who seriously engage in such study will be better prepared for their future ministry, whether it be among Disciples or within the context of the larger ecumenical movement.

Awards of $100, $75, and $50 will be given to the writers of the three best essays. Also, awards of 6 ecumenical books will be made to all entries which give evidence of serious work.

Copies of the "Essay Contest Rules" are available from faculty representatives at the various seminaries or from the Council on Christian Unity.

48th ANNUAL REPORT TO BE PRESENTED

The following report on the work of the Council on Christian Unity for 1957-58 will be presented to the St. Louis Assembly of the International Convention, October 17-22:

CENTRAL DEPARTMENT ON CHRISTIAN UNITY

W. J. Jarman, chairman

The Executive Committee serves as the Central Department, together with standing and ad hoc committees.

Committee on Relations, Representation and Support of NCC and WCC

Gaines M. Cook, chairman

Actions of the Council encouraging local church support included sponsorship of Cleveland Assembly Resolution No. 45, statistical reports to churches in November and May, a circular letter to state secretaries, and special reports in the 1958-59 Year of Emphasis Manual and Church Program Planning Guide. Support from local congregations for the National and World Council budgets shows a slight increase, but is $7,000 and $4,500, respectively, short of expectations from local churches. A restudy of Brotherhood procedures of support for the Councils is underway.

Towards a goal of $20,000 set by the Des Moines Assembly for the new World Council headquarters, $17,308.32 has been received in cash and pledges.

By joint action of the Board of Higher Education, The United Christian Missionary Society, The International Convention and the Council, funds are being secured for our share ($6,500 over 3 years) of support for the North American Faith and Order studies project being undertaken through the National Council of Churches.

Joint Committee on Ecumenical Appointments

Gaines M. Cook, chairman

Dr. Hampton Adams was added to the delegation previously appointed to to represent Disciples in the General Assembly of the National Council.

Committee on Relations with Churches and Union Movements Abroad

Virgil A. Sly, chairman

Study documents on relations with churches in Germany, Italy and East Europe were prepared and published in the *Ecumenical Studies Series.* The committee is continuing its consideration of union proceedings in Thailand and North India/Pakistan, of proposed constitutions, statements of faith and relations, together with Disciple responsibilities and possible involvement. A "statement of principles" concerning our place in the whole church, our self-concept and long-range hopes is being prepared for further study.

Relations with Churches in America

United Church of Christ. Appointments were made by the executive committee to two commissions of the United Church of Christ as follows:

Commission to Prepare a Statement of Faith: Walter Sikes, Fraternal Observer; Robert Tobias, Alternate; Howard Short, Ronald Osborn and Wm. Baird, Advisory sub-Committee.

Commission to Draft a Constitution: Gaines M. Cook, Fraternal Observer; W. J. Jarman, Alternate; Hampton Adams and George Walker Buckner, Advisory sub-Committee.

Each of the two commissions has met twice and reports of our fraternal observers have been made to the executive committee.

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UNITY RESOLUTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED AT ST. LOUIS

The following resolutions will be presented to the St. Louis Assembly of the International Convention by the Executive Committee of the Council on Christian Unity on behalf of the Council:

The Council on Christian Unity which has been given responsibility for matters that relate to the historic mission of the Disciples of Christ in witnessing to and working for the unity of the Church in the Lord Jesus Christ, submits the following:

AN ECUMENICAL DECADE:

In the Providence of God the churches are finding their unity in their Lord, and giving visible expression to their brotherhood in Him. Ten years ago the World Council of Churches was founded at Amsterdam. Now more than 170 million Christians are "growing together" through the World Council of Churches. Not only has the fraternal hand of Christian aid been extended to refugees, and victims of earthquake, famine, flood, and war, but through worship and study the churches have drawn closer in heart and mind. We have extended an ecumenical ministry to people and churches in thirty-nine nations through Week of Compassion. In mission lands, in Japan and the Philippines, we are finding actual expressions of unity in participation in United Churches and are engaged in union in several other countries. Within our own brotherhood we have witnessed a deeper understanding of the need and nature of unity. We have increased the number of our congregations supporting the budgets of the World and National Councils of Churches by 200%. We have become more responsible Disciples in developing orderly procedures for correlating our ecumenical work, in engaging in ecumenical study and conversation, and in sharing with our fellow-Christians in both the riches of the Gospel and the ministry to God's children everywhere.

Wherefore Be It Resolved:

a) that we call upon our people and churches to offer prayer to our Lord Jesus Christ in thanksgiving for the growing unity of the church and for the visible oneness among Christians; and to sincere confessions of repentance for the continuance of so great a scandal to the Gospel as division or enmity among Christians, for whatever part of the division which may be due to our lack of understanding or charity, or to our pride and presumption; and of petition to the Lord of the Church that we may be delivered from all narrowness or prejudice, and become more responsive to the gifts of grace in others, that we may be instruments used by Him to gather the scattered flock under the authority of Him alone; and

b) that in this year of emphasis we urge the local churches and our brotherhood agencies to engage in a serious reappraisal of our responsibilities as disciples for unity among ourselves and for our service to the whole Church and the whole world.

SUPPORT OF NATIONAL AND WORLD COUNCILS:

Since 1947 support of the National Council by local Disciple congregations has increased from $11,616.33 to $24,839.62 in 1957; and for the World Council from $6,651.64 to $12,777.12.

In the meantime the programs and ministries of both Councils have expanded and we rejoice in this fact. Our recommended "fair shares" of the budgets have also increased: for the National Council budget to $32,600 and for the World Council to $21,907.50. At its last meeting in Denmark in August the Central Committee of the World Council authorized a 15% increase in the budget ceiling, simply to offset rising costs of living, and invited churches as early as possible to increase their quotas by that amount.

Wherefore, in accordance with our established principle of local church support for the Councils,

Be It Resolved:

a) that every local congregation be urged to make a significant contribution to the budgets of the National and World Councils in the current year;

b) that congregations presently contributing to these budgets be urged to increase their contributions by at least 15% over their 1957 giving.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST:

The International Convention Assembly in Buffalo in 1947 and again in Des Moines in 1956 expressed its desire that if and when the Congregational-Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church united, the Disciples of Christ should seek to have conversations with the United Church about the possibility of entering into that union. The United Church is in some ways the most significant union that has taken place in our country, since it has united two denominations of very different backgrounds and polity, and has done so in such a way as deliberately to invite and encourage further union with other bodies.

Whereas: the United Church of Christ has shown a pervasive concern for the cause of Christian unity, and

Whereas: the officers of the executive committee of the United Church of Christ have invited fraternal observers from the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) to meet with the Commission to Draft a Constitution and the Commission to Draft A Statement of Faith, and

Whereas: there have been numerous personal expressions to our officers of the interest of the United Church of Christ in Christian unity,

Therefore Be It Resolved: that the Convention Assembly expresses its appreciation of the consideration of the officers of the United Church of Christ in keeping the Council on Christian Unity informed of developments in the merger of the churches and reaffirms its previous resolution charging the Council on Christian Unity with responsibility to be ready to enter into discussions with the United Church of Christ looking toward the possible union of the two churches.

STUDENT FELLLOWSHIPS:

Since 1955 our Disciple Student Fellowship has been engaged in conversation with other student fellowships looking toward organic union on a national and regional

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Summer Ecumenical Highlights

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towards a decreasing role for Faith and Order in present ecumenical developments, approvad a resolution calling on the World Council to lift Faith and Order to the status of a Division in the World Council, and urged that churches take more seriously this area of their inter-relationships. Unity, which involves our deepest convictions, is more than cooperation and friendly relations. Prof. Ronald E. Osborn, Butler School of Religion, attended the meeting.

Russian Orthodox

In Utrecht, Holland, representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church and of the World Council spent three days discussing common concerns and relationships of the churches. Commenting on the meeting, Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft, General Secretary of the World Council, noted that its real importance is not to be seen primarily in political terms, but "in the realm of church relationships and church history."

Out of that meeting it is hoped that a growing acquaintance will develop, and critical issues of the day will certainly not be excluded.

10th Anniversary

In the Cathedral of Odense on August 24 the World Council celebrated its tenth anniversary. Observers characterized the service with the words "humility," "gratitude to God," and "renewed dedication" to the cause of unity. In his sermon Berlin Bishop Otto Dibelius indicated how strongly it had been felt at Amsterdam, and since, that "the Holy Spirit was there."

Other meetings of the World Council considered reports on the prevention of war, inter-church aid in areas of need, issues in the Middle-East, plans for the next Assembly, and normal business of the departments and divisions.

Dr. Robert Tobias, Associate Executive Secretary of the Council on Christian Unity, was in several meetings following a brief visit among churches of Scandinavia. Other Disciples involved in European meetings were Mr. William Baker of Scotland; Dr. Leslie Smith of Lexington; and Harry Partin, presently serving as fraternal worker on the World Council of Churches-International Missionary Council staff.

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ANNUAL REPORT—(Continued)

—"The Nature of the Unity We Seek," a pre-Oberlin series of local church studies under the direction of Howard E. Short.

—"The Lordship of Christ Over the World and the Church," second draft forwarded to World Council; suggestion for a local church elective to Curriculum Planning Council, William Moore, chairman.

—"Proselytism and Christian Witness," drafted by Committee on Relations Abroad.

—"The Church, the Churches and the World Council of Churches," commentary on a statement of the World Council (revised, Toronto Central Committee, 1950) forwarded to World Council.

2. Study commissions appointed and at work include the following:
   - — Commission on Baptism, W. B. Blakemore, chairman
   - — Commission on Christian Responsibility in Areas of Rapid Social Change, Walter Sikes, director
   - — Commission on the Theology of Missions (jointly with the Division of World Mission), Joseph Smith, chairman
   - — Commission on the Meaning and Use of the Bible, W. A. Welsh, chairman
   - — Commission on Biblical Theology, William Reed, chairman
   - — Regional studies on Ecclesiological/Theological Issues in North America

Oberlin Faith and Order Conference. Disciple delegates were Hampton Adams, W. B. Blakemore, Lin D. Cartwright, A. T. DeGroot, Halbert E. Gulley, Irvin E. Lunger, John E. McCaw, Ian McCrae, Mrs. George Earle Owen, John Paul Pack, Parker Rossman, Howard E. Short, Robert Tobias, R. Frederick West, Howard Wakelin, Kenneth Wills.

Consultants were John Harms, Edwin Kirtley, Virgil Lowder, C. C. Morrison, Ronald E. Osborn, Roy Ross, Mrs. James Wyker, and R. William Graham (Australia).

Steward and staff were Mr. and Mrs. Paul Crow.

A report on the Conference was made to the Cleveland Assembly by a panel of delegates. A "Response to Oberlin," edited by Ronald E. Osborn, Howard E. Short and Robert Tobias has been circulated to Oberlin delegates and is available to interested friends.

Local Church Studies. Under the direction of Howard E. Short, a series of studies on issues out of the Oberlin Conference will be conducted in local churches. Two study guides have been prepared, one specifically on Oberlin, edited by George Hunt, and the other to guide local Disciple churches in conducting ecumenical studies, by the Council.

Faith and Order Institute. The Department again this year joined with the School of Religion, Butler University, in sponsoring a three-week summer Faith and Order Institute, with guest lecturers from other churches.

LITERATURE AND INTERPRETATION

Much effort has gone into preparations for the Year of Emphasis, 1958-59, sponsored jointly by the Council, the Disciples of Christ Historical Society and the Commission on the Promotion of Christian Literature. The theme adopted is "Responsible Disciples—Mission Begun: Read, Remember, Unite." Joint materials include a manual, poster, litany for launching service, and essay contest. In addition, these publications on Christian unity have been prepared:

Minister's Handbook on Christian Unity, Bethany Press
Preaching on Christian Unity, Bethany Press
Unity Packet, for local church outreach committees
Together, a pamphlet describing World, National and local and Disciples Councils, and the involvement of the local church in ecumenical concerns
Disciples and Christian Unity, a brochure on the work of the Council
A Guide to Ecumenical Studies, for local churches
Christian Unity—Mission Begun, a color filmstrip with sound, presented as a progress report on unity

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Summer Ecumenical Highlights

In places as far apart as Nyborg, Denmark, and Tokyo, Japan, Christian churchmen this summer took important decisions for the life of the Church.

In Nyborg some 300 leaders participated in meetings of the departments and committees of the World Council.

WCC Central Committee

The Central Committee received a report on plans for the integration of the World Council and the International Missionary Council, and approved a schedule calling for final action by the representatives of the Churches at the next Assembly of the Council, to be held in Ceylon in 1961. Dr. George Walker Buckner, Executive Secretary of the Council on Christian Unity and Editor of *World Call*, represents Disciples on the Central Committee.

Rapid Social Change

Prior to the Central Committee meeting a consultation on "The Common Christian Responsibility Toward Areas of Rapid Social Change," evaluated data gathered in the first three years of this five-year study, and made detailed plans for conclusion of the project over the next two years. As the study progresses an increasing number of salient points for Christians becomes evident, among others, that the church is no spectator in radical social changes, and must involve itself in "work for responsible emancipation." Specific acts of involvement are suggested by the study.

Prof. Walter Sikes, Butler School of Religion and Director of the Disciples' Study Commission on Rapid Social Change participated in the meeting.

Men and Women

At Fyn, Denmark, a consultation called by the Department on Cooperation of Men and Women in Church and Society discussed obstacles to cooperation, and recommended depth studies in the relation of psyche and sex and in the common vocation and specific callings of men and women. Mrs. James E. Wyker of Mt. Vernon, Ohio, is a member of the Department and attended the consultation.

Faith and Order

In Geneva a committee on the future of Faith and Order, noting a trend

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ANNUAL REPORT—(Continued)

Baptist-Disciple Relations. Prof. Eugene Rector, at the request of the World Council's North American Commission on Institutionalism, has drafted an evaluative paper on sociological factors in Baptist-Disciple negotiations of the past two decades.

Greenwich Plan of Union. The Executive Committee of the Greenwich Conference (Gaines M. Cook, Disciple representative) has considered proposed revisions in the Plan and is calling a meeting of the Conference to consider next steps for revisions and further study of the Plan.

Canada. The Canadian Churches' Committee on Union (Howard Wakelin, chairman) has met twice with representatives of the United Church of Canada to discuss possibilities and requisites of union.

DEPARTMENT OF ECUMENICAL SERVICE

Spencer Austin, chairman

Conferences and Visitation. Robert Tobias, director, participated in the Consultation on Inter-Church Aid called by the World Council's Division of Inter-Church Aid and Services to Refugees at New Haven. Virgil Sly, as representative of the National Council's Division of Foreign Missions, attended meetings of the World Council's Division in Geneva. Spencer Austin, as chairman of the Disciples' Committee on Relief Appeals, attended meetings of the Executive Committee of Church World Service in New York. The director was also involved in meetings dealing with critical problems of the Church's life in the Middle East and North Africa.

Inter-Church Aid. After consultation with National and World Council staff, and survey visits in areas of Europe and the Middle East by the director, projects totaling $316,900 were included in the 1958 program of Week of Compassion. Our ecumenical assistance and its effect have been gratifying, particularly in the Middle East and among Younger Churches.

Fraternal Workers (appointments by the Department with funds from Week of Compassion).

James D. Wyker has been re-appointed for two years to continue the significant work of village and agricultural rehabilitation he has started in East Pakistan. He also serves as director of the Relief Committee of the East Pakistan Christian Council, and has been urged to spend a term of service in Rhodesia introducing the kind of program he has initiated in East Pakistan.

Harry Partin, secretary of the World Council-International Missionary Council study on "The Word of God and The Living Faiths of Men," has been reappointed for two years, and will move from London to Geneva to correlate and administer a series of studies in various parts of the world.

Wm. J. Nottingham, formerly associate pastor of the National City Christian Church, has been appointed as fraternal worker to the French Protestant Churches, where he will serve as associate executive secretary of CIMADE in emergency and reconstruction projects.

Malcolm McCallum has returned after two years of significant service in refugee relief and resettlement in Egypt.

Scholarships. The second ecumenical "Seminaries' Scholarship" was awarded by Brite College of the Bible to Joe L. Enochs, who completed his term of study at the Graduate School of Ecumenical Studies, Switzerland, in February. The third scholarship has been awarded by the School of Religion at Butler University to Frederick I. Murphy for the year 1958-59.

The second annual Unity Scholarship, financed by the Irwin-Sweeney-Miller Foundation, has been awarded to Prof. and Mrs. John Boosinger, Northwest Christian College, Eugene Oregon, for study at the Graduate School in Switzerland.

A summary listing of several hundred scholarships and fellowships available to ministers and theological students was circulated to Disciple ministers and seminaries in the February *Newsletter*.

DEPARTMENT OF ECUMENICAL STUDY

Irvin E. Lunger, chairman

Study Commissions

1. Studies completed include the following:

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UNITY RESOLUTIONS—(Continued)

level. The negotiations have reached a stage where a definite vote will be taken toward such a union with the United Church student fellowship next year, and our International Convention Assembly in Denver will be asked to ratify the merger if the vote is mutually favorable.

Wherefore, Be It Resolved:

a) that we commend our Student Fellowship for its concern and effort for the cause of Christian unity;

b) and that in this year of decision we ask that our churches and the appropriate state and national agencies take care to be informed as to the nature and meaning of the proposed union of the student fellowships.

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES—INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY COUNCIL:

In the beginning of this century and in the providence of God, Christian leaders found it desirable to create an International Missionary Council and a World Council of Churches to further the Church's mission and unity.

In 1946 the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council joined in creating the first of several common agencies and departments. In 1948 they decided to operate "in association" and created a "joint committee" to guide their common programs and the process of inter-relation.

The Evanston Assembly of the World Council, in 1954, approved "with deep appreciation" a resolution from the Joint Committee delineating still new areas in which work should be undertaken jointly. Noting that "it has not yet become clear whether this association should necessarily lead to a single organization; the Assembly expressed its own "sense of necessity to press on to further ways and means by which 'the inseparable oneness of mission and unity' may be more convincingly demonstrated in the life of the I.M.C. and the W.C.C."

In 1956 the Joint Committee agreed "to recommend to the parent bodies that in the opinion of the Joint Committee the time has come when consideration should be given to the possibility of full integration between the W.C.C. and the I.M.C., subject to an adequate safeguarding in any plan of integration of the distinctive expression of the Mission of the Church as this has been embodied in the I.M.C." In 1957 the Central Committee of the World Council gave preliminary consideration to a Draft Plan of Integration prepared by the Joint Committee and submitted it to member churches for their consideration.

The Assembly of the International Missionary Council, meeting in Ghana last winter, accepted the principle of integration, approved the Draft Plan of Integration as a "generally suitable instrument for integration," commended the Plan to member organizations with a view to amendment and improvement, and requested the World Council of Churches to delay its own deciding Assembly to 1961 to allow time for this kind of study, revision and action if necessary by another International Missionary Council Assembly.

At its meeting in Denmark, in August, 1958, the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches took note of the favorable action of the International Missionary Council Assembly and approved a schedule of action and involvement which calls for parallel assemblies in 1961 with definitive action by representatives of the member churches assembled together at that time.

As Disciples we have been involved in this process at several points, in addition to staff and normal consultative relationships.

Responding to the action of the Evanston Assembly resolution (*A Response to Evanston,* p. 28) we recorded our endorsement of the "associate" relationship, and noted hopefully that efforts would be given to "closer and more dynamic expressions" of that relationship.

In response to the action of the International Missionary Council at Ghana, the Board of Trustees of The United Christian Missionary Society at its January, 1958, meeting voted:

"That The United Christian Missionary Society inform the Division of Foreign Missions of the National Council of Churches of Christ in U.S.A. that we approve the principle of integration, as presented in the plan of integration of the International Missionary Council and the World Council of Churches and urge the early implementation of the plan."

Pursuant to this action by The United Missionary Society's Board of Trustees, the Board of Directors of the International Convention voted in June, 1958:

"that the International Convention of Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) in behalf of our Brotherhood approves the merger of the International Missionary Council and the World Council of Churches."

The next stage of developments, as recognized by the World Council's Central Committee, will involve experimental, and sometimes drastic changes in structure, and will require major concentration of thought and resolve in the next three years. If this is true of the Councils, it is also true of member churches and mission agencies, including ourselves. Whatever is demanded in the Church's fulfilling its mission and unity, insofar as we can believe it is of God, can be done in confidence and hope.

Wherefore Be It Resolved:

a) that this Assembly of the International Convention of Christian Churches record its approval in principle of the proposed integration of the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council, noting with satisfaction that functions and functional structures will make broad provision for the Church's total mission in the world and will allow for participation of regional bodies not desiring full membership in the new organization, and that the principles which govern membership will maintain this new manifestation of mission as the churches themselves joined together in mission and unity.

b) that the United Christian Missionary Society and the Council of Christian Unity which are considering the implications of the proposed integration for Brotherhood life be asked to bring in a report to the Brotherhood as plans are developed.

UNITY EVENTS AT ST. LOUIS

Theme: "The Church of Christ on Earth Is One"

Friday, October 17

12:00-5:00 P.M.—Meeting of the Disciples' Study Commission on the Churches and Rapid Social Change, Chrm., Dr. Walter Sikes; Mark Twain Hotel.

8:00 P.M.—Worship Drama: "The Church Is One"—Convention Hall. President's address: Granville T. Walker, Convention President.

Saturday, October 18

12:20 P.M.—Council on Christian Unity, Annual Meeting and Luncheon. Mark Twain Hotel. Speaker: Dr. Robert Bilheimer, Associate General Secretary, World Council of Churches, Geneva.

2:30-5:00 P.M.—Meeting of the Disciples' Study Commission on the Theology of Missions, Chrm., Dr. Joseph M. Smith; Mark Twain Hotel.

9:30 P.M.—Campbell Institute. Sheraton-Jefferson Hotel. Speaker: Dr. Robert Bilheimer, Associate General Secretary, World Council of Churches, Geneva.

Sunday, October 19

7:30-9:00 A.M.—Council on Christian Unity Board of Directors. Meeting and breakfast. Mark Twain Hotel.

4:00-5:00 P.M.—Ecumenical Communion Service

7:45 P.M.—Address: "The Theological Basis for Social Concern," J. Irwin Miller.

Monday, October 20

8:20 P.M.—Worship Drama: "The World Church" Keil Auditorium Opera House.

8:40 P.M.—Address: "World Concerns of the Church," Mrs. Theodore O. Wedel, President, United Church Women, Washington, D. C.

Tuesday, October 21

8:15 P.M.—Worship Drama: "The Ecumenical Movement" Kiel Auditorium Opera House.

8:35 P.M.—Address: "The Oneness of The Church," Edwin T. Dahlberg, President of National Council of Churches.

Wednesday, October 22

9:00 A.M.—Historical Lecture: "The Bridge to Unity," Alfred T. DeGroot. Kiel Auditorium Opera House.

2:30 P.M.—Address: "The United Church of Christ Is Born," Fred Hoskins, Co-President of the United Church of Christ. Kiel Auditorium Opera House.

3:45 P.M.-5:15 P.M.— Sharathon Group No. 17: "Our Responsibility for World Relief," Committee on Relief Appeals. Film: "The Long Stride."

7:45—Address: "The Future of the Disciples of Christ," Ronald E. Osborn. Kiel Auditorium Opera House.

ANNUAL REPORT—(Continued)

SPECIAL PROJECTS

The annual Peter Ainslie Memorial Lecture, sponsored by the Council, was delivered at Rhodes University, South Africa, by Prof. Benjamin J. Marais on the subject "Human Diversity and Christian Unity."

Messages of fellowship and concern have been sent on behalf of Disciples to churches overseas in particular distress or celebrating special occasions.

Mention should also be made of the considerable time of staff and officers given to our common work in committees and projects of the World Council of Churches, International Missionary Council, National Councils of Churches (Canada and U. S.), Inter-Seminary Movement, and other regional ecumenical efforts, a service we can rejoice to render.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Income

Unified Promotion:	
Undesignated and Specific	$21,233.36
Designated	1,765.00
1956-57 Transfer of Funds for Year of Emphasis Expense	1,500.00
Membership Dues	950.65
Miscellaneous	156.80
	$25,606.31

Expenditures

Salaries, Pensions, Travel	$10,068.49
Office Expense (Phone, Secretary, etc.)	4,623.16
Office Space	503.76
Office Equipment and Supplies	755.77
Joint Relations	274.72
Unified Promotion and Council of Agencies Expense	1,185.14
Disciples Expense to Meetings of NCC and WCC	706.32
Conferences and Consultations	377.25
To Ecumenical Conference Representation Fund	500.00
Contributions to National Council	186.00
Participation, Union Merger Conferences	90.00
Literature (Other than Emphasis)	1,057.88
Study Department Program	919.55
Long Range Emphasis	3,084.43
Services to Members	848.66
Miscellaneous and Unassigned	162.04
	$25,343.17

Special Account

Receipts to Council as agent for special projects	$ 800.00
Charges made against receipts to Council as agent for special projects	800.00
Received from Week of Compassion for Senior Ecumenical Services, the Council to serve as agent	$28,691.38
Expenditures from Ecumenical Services funds	13,533.49

Local Churches to Study Ecumenical Issues

"The Nature of the Unity We Seek" will be the topic for basic ecumenical studies among Disciple congregations in the year 1958-59. The studies are sponsored by the Council and directed by Dr. Howard E. Short, Editor of *The Christian Evangelist.* The topic corresponds to the theme of the first North American Conference on Faith and Order, held at Oberlin, 1957.

Prior to the Oberlin meeting more than a score of study groups were organized under Dr. Short's direction to do preparatory studies on the theme. Primary source materials will be *A Guide to Christian Unity* (Bethany Press), edited by George Hunt, and the Oberlin report.

Techniques, methods, materials and a suggested 5-year schedule for ecumenical studies are included in the *Ecumenical Studies Guide for Local Churches,* available from the Council's office.

Christian Unity Newsletter: Issued quarterly to members and friends of the Council by the Council On Christian Unity (an association of Disciples of Christ for the promotion of Christian unity, for ecumenical fellowship and service), 222 S. Downey Ave., Indianapolis 7, Indiana, U. S. A.

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Christian Education

In Japan the World Convention on Christian Education brought together 4000 delegates from 63 countries, among them some 40 Disciples, including A. Dale Fiers, Mr. and Mrs. George Oliver Taylor, James Blair Miller, Mable Metze, Lorenzo Evans, Kenneth Wills, members of the United Society's East Asia Tour Group, and missionaries and Disciples from other lands.

Dr. Russell Harrison, formerly Director of Youth Work in the United Society, is Associate Executive Secretary of the World Council of Christian Education.